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Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with The Honorable Harry S. Truman

At the request of the President, transmitted to me through the Secretary of State, I called Mr. Truman on 25 July, at Independence, Missouri. I found that he was then enroute to Independence from St. Louis, but reached him at Independence early on the morning of 26 July.

Mr. Truman greeted me warmly over the phone and said that he hoped that everything was going well with the Agency. I told him we were busy as he could well imagine.

I then told Mr. Truman that the President had asked me to get in touch with him and ask him whether, in view of critical developments in the world situation, he would like to have a briefing on the current situation from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Truman replied that he would appreciate it greatly, but never thought he should ask for such a thing because he thought it might be embarrassing. He added, "You don't know how much I appreciate this. I know that unless you have access to the information which CIA has, you don't really know what is going on or what the situation is."

Mr. Truman then added that he was in thorough sympathy with what we were trying to do and added one or two complimentary words with respect to the work which CIA was doing. He added that he would appreciate anything that we could give him, but stated that he did not want the Agency to go to any trouble or expense.

I expressed appreciation for what Mr. Truman had said and added that as President at the time CIA was organized, he had always been one of our best friends and supporters.

As regards trouble and expense, I said that the President wished this briefing to be given if Mr. Truman desired it, and that it would be no trouble at all to the Agency to do it.

Arrangements for the briefing were then discussed and Tuesday afternoon at the Truman library in Independence was agreed upon.

Mr. Truman then spoke about his work in the library and expressed the hope that I would be able to have a look at it one of these days. I replied that I would not be able to come at this time because of the pressure of work here, but I would send one of my best men and I would try to get out later to see him whenever the situation permitted.

I added that my representative would be prepared to brief on the Near East situation; on questions bearing on the Soviet problem and generally on other critical matters in the world situation as Mr. Truman might desire. I suggested that at this first briefing, Mr. Truman could indicate other issues which might not be covered and also let us know as to his convenience for any future briefings. In conclusion, Mr. Truman reiterated his keen appreciation and thanks for the offer that had been made.

A supplemental memorandum prepared by my briefing officer, [REDACTED] is attached.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

AWD/ji/c

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